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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

03-RCA-0281

JUN 19 2003

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Hanford Project Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 W. Fourth Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336

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AUG 07 2003
EDMC

Addressees:

REQUEST FOR A 60-DAY EXTENSION TO RESOLVE POLICY LEVEL REGULATORY COMMENTS AND TO DEVELOP A SCHEDULE FOR UPDATING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE 200-CW-1 AND 200-CW-3 OPERABLE UNITS AND THE 200 NORTH AREA WASTE SITES, DOR/RL-2002-69, DRAFT A, AND THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE 200-CW-1 AND 200-CW-3 OPERABLE UNITS AND THE 200 NORTH AREA WASTE SITES, DOE/RL-2003-06, DRAFT A (HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER [TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT] MILESTONE M-015-38A)

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), is seeking a 60-day extension to resolve policy level comments received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) on the Feasibility Study for the 200-CW-1 and 200-CW-3 Operable Units and the 200 North Area Waste Sites, DOE/RL-2002-69, Draft A, and the Proposed Plan for the 200-CW-1 And 200-CW-3 Operable Units and the 200 North Area Waste Sites, DOE/RL-2003-06, Draft A (Tri-Party Agreement Interim Milestone M-015-38A). This request is proposed in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement Action Plan, Section 9.0, Documentation and Records, Figure 9-1. Comment resolution and a schedule for updating the documents will be submitted to EPA and Ecology no later than August 19, 2003.

The documents were submitted to Ecology and EPA on March 31, 2003, for regulatory review. Ecology provided comments to RL on May 20, 2003. We want to thank Ecology and EPA for their comments and we appreciate Ecology's and EPA's willingness to continue the discussions so that a common understanding is reached and mutual path forward agreed to by the parties. The on-going need for discussion to finalize a comprehensive and coordinated strategy for ecological risk assessment, ecological data needs (i.e., Central Plateau Ecological Evaluation, DOE/RL-2001-54, Draft B) and recent correspondence forms the basis for RL's request.

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Please indicate your approval on the signature block provided below. If there are any questions, please contact Bryan Foley, Waste Management Division, on (509) 376-7087 or Ellen Mattlin, of my staff, on (509) 376-2385.

Sincerely,



Joel Hebdon, Director
Regulatory Compliance and Analysis Division

RCA:EMM

cc: D. Bartus, EPA
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Approved:

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